

# Peace Offensives Against Germany Doomed to Fail

Pride in Fatherland so Strongly Developed in People That They Stand as a Unit in Resisting Surrender of Any Territory

Wilson's Wedge to Separate Masses From Kaiser Made No Impression Because People Who Glow in Being Underlings of Ruler Accepted It as Outside Meddling

NOTE—Until the outbreak of war between the United States and Germany Mr. Dreher had been for years the Associated Press correspondent at Berlin, specializing in financial, economic and political subjects. He has, therefore, a very wide knowledge of the sources and nature of Germany's industrial power, and also an unusual understanding of German conditions. In this and succeeding articles he will digest all available evidence as to the conditions existing in the land of the enemy and draw such conclusions as seem to him to be warranted.

By William C. Dreher  
SECOND ARTICLE

WASHINGTON, March 20.—My first article led up to the recent "peace offensives." The present one will place the reader in a position to get the German viewpoint on this whole movement.

Our President thought he saw points where he might insert a wedge that could bedevil through to peace. He assumed that there was a sufficient rift between the Kaiser and his people to receive the point of one wedge, and the another might be introduced between Germany and Austria. He placed his wedges in position, he hammered them with much manly effort, reinforced with ideals most promising for the future weal of humanity. But the rock would not split.

Why was this? Did he assume that the structure of government in Germany was weaker than it is, that hunger had become so keen and the longing for peace so profound that the German people would court their rulers to respond to his overtures?

Did he build upon greater friction between Germany and Austria-Hungary than the facts justify?

Did he underestimate the military position of the Central Powers?

**Blind Minds**

Whatever answers be given to those questions, it is evident that miscalculations were made. Reading these excellent messages, and the German replies, then the comments in the American and also in the German press, what has been most frequently in my mind was: Our thoughts and theirs were in an entirely different atmosphere.

Take, for example, Count Hertling's last speech in the Reichstag. It was pronounced arrogant by not a few American newspapers. It breathed a confidence that appeared to them to be unwarranted by Germany's general position, and this confidence was unpleasant to them.

The German view was quite the contrary. The Junkers even deplored the speech as lacking the proud and defiant tone that so delights their hearts, the lordly gesture that befits the future master of the world. To them, in short, the speech was not arrogant enough.

But there was another German view—the view which, as I would judge from the German press, was adopted by the great majority of the people. According to this, the speech was in strict accord with the actualities of the situation; it took due account of the German people's undoubted longing for peace, showed a disposition to renounce Belgium, but a stout determination to hold fast to Alsace-Lorraine. In other words, it seemed to claim only what nearly all Germans still think they will be able in the end to hold. Hence, to them, too, the speech was not arrogant.

**Through With Belgium**

The only point at which these more moderate critics took exception was that Hertling did not make the renunciation of Belgium explicit enough; they wanted to see no incidental conditions hinted at, wanted to see the Belgian question segregated from all other points that must come up in the general liquidation after the war. In failing to do that, it was said, the Chancellor did not fully utilize his opportunity for furthering the cause of peace.

From the foregoing remarks one important inference can be drawn: The Germans are not in the least in the thought of yielding up German territory in order to win peace. They regard, rightly or wrongly, the Alsace-Lorraine question as vital. And that view is practically universal. I would emphasize that statement particularly from my general knowledge of the German people. Their pride of race, pride in their national achievements, especially military achievements, has been instilled upon by many writers since this war began, but I always felt that none of them painted the picture in strong enough colors, for the reality is something almost alien to our conceptions.

The feeling about Alsace-Lorraine cannot be passed over lightly by us on this side if we want to understand Germany.

many understand the psychological resistance which we have undertaken to break down. First is the economic side of the matter. The provinces have undergone a prodigious business development under German domination. The discovery of vast iron ore deposits in Lorraine caused a remarkable development of the smelting and steel industry there. For a decade or two before the outbreak of the war the German steel industry was gravitating toward Lorraine; some of the most important companies of the lower Rhine and Westphalian region established branch works there. Coal mines were opened in adjacent territory. Great industries were growing up and expanding from year to year. In Alsace-Lorraine the cotton industry made great advances, and the discovery several years before 1914 of vast deposits of potash—enough to supply the world's requirements for several centuries—promised further scope for industrial expansion.

**Other Ties**

This more economic bond attaching the Germans to Alsace-Lorraine is, of course, the less important factor. The German people were just mentioned; it may be added that no people are more proud of their past than the Germans. They respond with enthusiasm to the thought of defending the work accomplished by their fathers and their fathers' fathers. This sentiment of attachment to the work of their hands is harshly touched by any suggestion of surrendering those provinces.

Racial kinship is another plea advanced by the Germans, though they have never been able to get a satisfactory recognition of such relationship from the stock markets of the provinces. But racial attachment does not really count for much in this case; in fact, it has an insidious tinge whenever a German statesman touches that chord. What really counts is the fact that Germany recovered by force of arms territory which, in great part, had once been German, and that Germany is now proudly proud of the conquest. Their claim that Alsace-Lorraine, from military and political aspects, vital to the interests of Germany is a mere pretext.

However that may be, the fact remains that the Germans are well-nigh unanimous in feeling that the national integrity of the Fatherland would suffer an intolerable blow if the provinces should be wrested from them. Let us make no mistake in hoping that they will be brought to another mind without undergoing sufferings far beyond what they are now enduring. Germany will have to be thoroughly and crushingly defeated before her statesmen will write their names to a treaty for the cession of this territory to France.

**Notwithstanding Harden**

It may be objected to in some quarters that I have here overstated the German position. Some will point to the fact that Maximilian Harden has recently expressed views favorable to giving up Alsace-Lorraine, and that the Minority Socialists are also of a yielding disposition. To this I answer that though Harden has spoken some valiant and true words during the last year or two he can by no means be taken as representing any very large body of German opinion. He is not even a German by birth or race, and most people in Germany discount his utterances for that very reason—more the pity.

And as for the Minority Socialists, they undoubtedly represent a fringe of discontent among the laboring classes, a fringe too, that has perceptibly broadened within a year; yet their policy is one that cannot attract a strong following.

The attitude of the great majority of the Socialists on this question of Alsace-Lorraine must be sought not with the minority or secessionist element, but with the older wing of the party. At its convention in December the whole question was thrashed out at great length, and there was not one voice in favor of returning this territory to France. Even self-determination was rejected. Socialists in the Reichstag have repeatedly declared themselves similarly.

**Unintended Propaganda**

It was said above that our minds work in a different atmosphere. We not only misconceive the German viewpoint on vital questions, but we even assume the existence of a political instability in Germany and in her relations with Austria which does not exist. We believe that the President's messages, for example, offered the German people such reasonable and desirable things that they could not but respond with some action against their autocratic government. We thought we were offering a stimulus for liberal reforms. Hence we expected that the Kaiser would prevent the circulation of this highly dangerous matter. One newspaper was going to circulate the reply to the Pope behind the German frontiers by dropping translations from aeroplanes, and our government itself, it was reported, had adopted similar plans for circulating the January message. But authentic news came in, however, that they had been fully printed in Germany; and the plans were dropped.

Here was a sad divergence in viewpoints. We thought the messages propaganda for us, and the German authorities used them as propaganda for themselves. And we read in the "Kölnische Zeitung" that the President might just as well cast his one million copies of the January message into the sea, as it had been fully printed in German newspapers. The usually mild-toned "Frankfurter Zeitung" was no exception. After pointing to the fact that the message had been printed much more extensively in Germany than in England it advised the President to send his aeroplanes first over England.

**Kaiser Not Afraid**

The whole incident is luminous. The Kaiser is manifestly not afraid of our efforts to create discord between himself and his people, nor does he fear that Austria will break away from him and seek a separate peace. The well-meant hint to the German people to oust or curb the Kaiser was routed in almost all quarters in Germany. Even the Socialists and Liberals, who are just now trying hopefully to shift the balance of power from the Kaiser to the Reichstag, rejected what they regarded as meddling from an outsider and enemy.

The whole conception involved here, Look in Classified Columns of next Sunday's Tribune and Saturday's "Homes" for THAT opportunity—Adv.

of a down-trodden people who only need some enlightenment from the outside to see the error of their ways, is resented by the Germans. They resent it not only because they regard it as an unwarranted meddling in their affairs, but because they hold that it is essentially false.

The German people owe it to themselves and not to their rulers that they are underlings; and they know it. No less a person than Prince Max of Baden, cousin of the Kaiser, recently took occasion to correct what he regarded as the "oppressed people" theory. He declared this view grotesque and only deserving to be laughed at. He pointed out that it was precisely the fault of the German people themselves that they left political matters to their rulers, and that they were responsible for the public weal upon other shoulders. This was in a speech remarkable for its frankness toward war matters and its liberality of spirit.

**What Germans Know**

All these projects for enlightening the German people imply a lack of information as to the facilities they have for enlightening themselves. People on our side should surely know that the English, French and American newspapers circulate freely in Germany. In fact, they are sold in great quantities on the newsstands, and from editorial discussions in recent German newspapers I must assume that editors there are still reading them. Moreover, the German General Staff itself was issuing a daily sheet, running to as much as three or four pages of The Tribune, consisting entirely of translations from the enemy and neutral press. Let it not be supposed that the matter was one-sidedly treated, with all objectionable passages expurgated. I was often struck, on the contrary, with the apparent objectivity of the editor's work. Articles strongly controverting Bethmann-Hollweg's speeches were reproduced, and even rank insults to the Kaiser. This matter was freely distributed to the German press for reprinting or discussing. On the contrary, any German is at liberty to buy in the bookstores the various white, yellow and other colored books about the origin of the war. They are published in German in a single volume.

**Austria-Hungary**

Referring, finally, to the second wedge—the one designed to separate Germany and Austria—it could hardly have found a different fate from the first one. Austria now has big hopes of coming out of the war with its frontiers against Italy intact; and it knows that this result will depend upon holding fast to Germany. In the first article a remark by Count Czernin was quoted which shows clearly that the Austrian government recognizes its obligations to Germany for saving Trieste, and that Austria means to go with Germany in defending Alsace-Lorraine. It is a noteworthy fact that the Vienna newspapers, German notwithstanding, rejected the President's February message more emphatically than the German press.

Such are the facts. Like them or not, we must accept them as they are. It is a good omen that Washington at last accepts them.

In the third article, to appear next Sunday, Mr. Dreher will tell why a revolution in Germany is improbable during the war. It is "Verboten."

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## Russian Priest Ousted For Democratic Plan

The efforts of the Rev. Vladimir Rykhloff, rector of the Church of the Resurrection, at 121 East Seventh Street, to introduce democratic ideas in the Russian Orthodox Catholic Church in New York, has met with temporary failure and his removal from his pulpit.

The Rev. Mr. Rykhloff proposed that the Russian Church here emulate the example of the Church leaders in Russia, who have substituted the people as the supreme authority since the overthrow of the Czar, who was the head of the Church. The priest planned to make the office of Archbishop in this country an elective one instead of appointive and make him removable by the court. Also he urged the formation of an ecclesiastical consistory with lay members and the organization of a chief central body to exercise the powers of removal and assignment of priests, which now are among the powers of the Archbishop.

This move for democracy in the Church brought upon the Rev. Mr. Rykhloff the displeasure of Acting Archbishop Alexander Nemolovsky, whose authority extends over all the Russian Orthodox Catholic churches in America. He issued a ukase removing the Rev. Mr. Rykhloff as rector, upon application of the acting Archbishop Justice Delahanty, in the Supreme Court, issued an order yesterday directing the rector to show cause why he should not be compelled to obey the order of his superior.

## Federal Food Board's Daily Price List

Retail grocery associations here have agreed not to charge more than the prices below on a cash-in-hand basis. The prices are suggested by the Federal Food Board and persons compelled to pay higher prices are urged to report to the Federal Food Board, 220 West Fifty-seventh Street, telephone Circle 300.

Article	Kind	Quantity	Price
Bacon	1 lb.	15	15
Butter	1 lb.	15	15
Chicken	1 lb.	15	15
Corn	1 lb.	15	15
Eggs	1 doz.	15	15
Flour	1 lb.	15	15
Ham	1 lb.	15	15
Lard	1 lb.	15	15
Meat	1 lb.	15	15
Milk	1 qt.	15	15
Pork	1 lb.	15	15
Shrimp	1 lb.	15	15
Sugar	1 lb.	15	15
Tea	1 lb.	15	15
Wheat	1 lb.	15	15
Yeast	1 lb.	15	15
Zucchini	1 lb.	15	15

## Osborne Tells Of New Morale At Naval Prison

Portsmouth Now Human Repair Shop, Not Scrap Heap, He Says

Helps Men to Honor Common Sense Main Requisite, Says Ex-Warden, Now U. S. Custodian

"The naval prison at Portsmouth is no longer a scrap heap from which young men emerge tainted with all of the disabilities of the convict," said Lieutenant Commander Thomas Mott Osborne, speaking at the Ritz-Carlton yesterday to an interested group of prison workers. "It is, thanks to Secretary of the Navy Daniels, now a repair shop, out of which young men are returned to the navy to do good work, and later to return to private life fitted for its duties and responsibilities."

It was Mr. Osborne's first appearance on the lecture platform in New York since he entered the naval service as custodian of the Portsmouth prison last August. When he took the prison it had about 500 inmates, he said. Now there are nearly 2,000, and a new prison without barred windows or enclosing walls is being built by the prisoners to care for the increase. This, Mr. Osborne explained, is due to the immense increase in the enlisted personnel of the navy since the outbreak of the war.

"When I took the prison last August," said Mr. Osborne, "there were 300 inmates. Now there are 1,511 at the last count. Since October we have restored to the service 293 young men who are making good. They have been returned to the service with a splendid spirit of loyalty. There were forty guards under the old system to care for 170 men. Now there are four to care for nearly 1,400—a record that I challenge any prison in the world to match."

**Common Sense the Keynote**

"There is no magic in this thing. Any one can do it if he will play square with the men, and instead of going on the theory that all of those committed to his charge are eternally damned and entitled to nothing but repression and severity, will recognize that good is a positive element in all and seek to develop it. All that is needed is a little common sense."

The need of common sense in handling navy prisoners Mr. Osborne illustrated with the story of a boy sentenced for a term of years on the charge of desertion.

"The boy was in San Francisco," said he, "and, thinking the war would not reach the Pacific Coast, he jumped a train and came East as fast as he could, reporting to a navy yard in full uniform. He explained that he came East so as to get into the fight, but he was sentenced for being absent without leave."

**Gets Chance to Fight**

"He came to Portsmouth convinced of the error of his ways and agreeing that it would never do to try to run a navy on the principle that every man might go where he pleased, but still anxious to get where the fighting is, Secretary Daniels agreed that, con-

sidering the present ideas of the young man as to following orders, this desire to fight was not exactly the proper thing to lock a chap up for. And he is one of those who have been restored to the service. He has been given his chance to fight."

Of existing conditions in Sing Sing, Mr. Osborne said he had read with regret the announcement that a great improvement had been worked there by excluding all visitors, particularly women visitors.

"I do not believe," said he, "that the prisons should be open to all who might wish to visit them, and it is never exactly easy to decide who is a desirable and who an undesirable visitor, but it is a confession that something is wrong, as well as a serious error, to bar all visitors."

**Morgue Keeper Used Hearse to Carry Coal**

He Admits at Hearing That Deliveries Delayed Official Work

Many methods were resorted to for the delivery of coal during the emergency last winter, but none was so unusual as that employed by Earl H. Burritt, former superintendent of the city morgue, who used the hearse to have coal carted to his home in Bayside, Long Island.

Burritt admitted the use of the hearse for that purpose at the hearing yesterday before Commissioner of Accounts Hirschfeld, who is investigating the conduct of the morgue by Burritt. Burritt resigned a month ago. Ralph Napier, employed as hearse driver at the morgue, testified that he delivered the superintendent's coal in the vehicle, he had at various times transported butter, preserves, jars and rugs. He insisted, however, that the hearse was used for the purpose of the coal, which was carried on the exterior of the hearse.

In answer to questions by Commissioner Hirschfeld, Burritt said the coal had been sent from an East Thirtieth Street coal yard to his home in five separate loads of one ton each during October and November, in the hearse. He declared that he had found it practically impossible to arrange for deliveries by Bayside gas flushing coal dealers. He justified coal transportation in the funeral vehicle on these grounds. He also admitted having sent along one or two mortuary employees for unloading purposes with the coal-laden hearse.

Napier also testified that upon returning from Bayside he had at times found that there were requests that the hearse call for bodies and that these calls had been delayed because of the absence of the hearse.

**Colonel Willcox Operated On**

NICE, France, March 19.—Colonel Cornelius De Witt Willcox, of the United States army, recently underwent an operation for appendicitis at Cannes. His condition now is quite satisfactory and he will soon be convalescent.

## Opponents of Plan For Park Trenches Threaten a Suit

Scenic Society to Seek Injunction if Ground Is Dug Up

War Precedent Found National Guard Refused Permission to Drill on City Property

The opponents of trenches in Central Park were far from admitting defeat yesterday. They had not given up the fight, even though the Board of Estimate had on Tuesday given official permission to the Liberty Loan Committee to add a touch of "No Man's Land" to the local color of Central Park.

One of the chief opponents, the American Scenic and Historical Preservation Society, was preparing to go into court, if necessary, to prevent the violation of Central Park's natural beauty for the sake of martial atmosphere.

**War Precedent Found**

Henry E. Gregory, attorney for the American Scenic and Historical Preservation Society, was hopeful yesterday that the Liberty Loan Committee could be induced to abandon its designs upon Central Park without the society's having to resort to a taxpayer's injunction.

Edward Harriman Hall, secretary of the society, dug back into Civil War history yesterday for the precedent in support of the question to using Central Park for military purposes. This historical datum shows that in 1864 the park was used for a military drill ground, but that the high military authorities, together with the citizens of New York, were in that early day opposed to diverting the park from its original purposes.

Mr. Hall quoted as follows from the annual report of the Board of Commissioners of Central Park for the year 1864:

"On the 28th of April, 1864, a portion of

one of the regiments of the 1st Division of the National Guard, in contravention of the ordinances of the board, and in opposition to the remonstrances of the keepers at the entrance of the park and on the way, entered the park and moved up the carriage way up to the green, and there with men and horses proceeded to parade and drill upon the lawn. The objections of the park keepers, generally requiring but a small force of keepers, no provision is made to meet the unexpected advance of a considerable body of men. Remonstrance with the officers of the regiment was all the opposition that could be presented at that time.

Officers Withdrew Troops

"These proceedings on the part of the regiment did not meet with the approbation of the most efficient officers and men of the National Guard, who, while they felt that provisions should be made for a parade ground, were unwilling to take any but proper measures to suppress that movement. Deeming their organization especially provided for the preservation and maintenance of order, they were unwilling to supply that need of order, whether resulting from misapprehension or design."

Brigadier General Hosiah T. Miller said "Parade grounds are essential and the state should provide one for each division, but the 1st Division's parade ground ought not to be Central Park. Military occupancy and exercise with the officers of the regiment was all the opposition that could be presented at that time."

## White Wings Can't Stand Soap Prices

Demand More Laundry-Less Color for Uniforms and More Pay

Another calamity was scored yesterday to the credit of the high-cost-of-living bores.

The "White Wings," immaculately clad and traditional proponents of the Utopia movement, though but lowly street cleaners, have risen in their wrath and delivered an ultimatum to Commissioner MacStacy, using the prohibitive price of soap and the scarcity of mangle machine manipulators as the basis for their revolt.

More sombre uniforms are demanded by the "White Wings." What the color they care not, though dark green is popular. Even dark blue or a brown would be acceptable, but the spotless white must go, they say. The laundry bills are too strong a strain and there's more than a possibility they will win their point with Commissioner MacStacy.

The demand was made by the Brooklyn "White Wings," who also joined with their brothers of the other boroughs in insisting that they be given increased pay and be paid overtime for days of more than eight hours and for work on legal holidays. They also asked that they be excluded from the workmen's compensation act and that the city assume liability for injuries and illness.

# It Cost the Average Family

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